

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, and 11-21 are pending. Claims 19-21 are allowable.

Claims 1-3, 9-11, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Narayanaswamy et al. (US Patent No. 5,905,467).

Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narayanaswamy in view of Egashira et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,691,730).

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has found Claims 19-21 to be allowable, and that Claims 4-7, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter. The Examiner indicated that those claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 4-7, 12 and 13 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Claims 4-7, 12 and 13 are allowable.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 depend from Claim 4, which should be allowable. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9, therefore, should be allowable based, at least, on that dependency.

Claim 7 depends from Claim 6, which should be allowable. Claim 7, therefore, should be allowable based, at least, on that dependency.

Claims 11, and 13-18 depend from Claim 12, which should be allowable. Claims 11, and 13-18, therefore, should be allowable based, at least, on that dependency.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the instant application – Claims 2-9 and 11-21 – are in condition for allowance, and further, earnestly solicit an action to that end.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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